

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4540

INFO USMISSION UN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 5234

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, MY, US

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER REQUESTS APPOINTMENT WITH SECRETARY

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 5216

1. FURTHER TO REFTEL,MFA PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EUROPE AND AMERICA, M.M. "RANJI" SATHIAH, HAS INFORMED US THAT FOREIGN MINISTER RITHAUDDEEN IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE LOS ANGELES FROM TOKYO VIA FLIGHT JL 062 SEPTEMBER 18 AT 1450. FOREIGN MINISTER WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE, TENGKU DATIN NOR AINI, HIS SISTER-IN-LAW AND PRESUMABLY SEVERAL MFA OFFICIALS. PARTY SCHEDULED DEPART LOS ANGELES SEPTEMBER 20 AT 1555 HOURS VIA FLIGHT AA 110, ETA WASHINGTON, D.C. 2350 HOURS SAME DAY.

2. SATHIAH STATED HE HAD SPOKEN BY PHONE WITH MALAYSIAN AMBASSADOR ZAIN AZRAAI, WHO INDICATED DEPT HAD INFORMED HIM THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD BE OUT OF TOWN, BUT THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE SECRETARY TO MEET WITH RIGHAUDDEEN WHILE BOTH ARE IN NEW YORK FOR THE UNGA. AMBASSADOR ZAIN ALSO INDICATED IT WAS LIKELY, HOWEVER, THE FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD BE ABLE TO SEE UNDER SECRETARY HABIB IN WASHINGTON, WHICH, ACCORDING TO SATHIAH, WOULD PROVIDE MALAYSIANS WITH WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO FOLLOW UP CONVERSATIONS WHEN UNDER SECRETARY WAS HERE LAST DECEMBER 11. IN ADDITION GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS,
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TOPIC OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO MALAYSIAN SIDE WOULD BE

THAT OF "THAILAND'S ROLE IN THE REGION," WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO BORDER SECURITY COOPERATION WITH MALAYSIA. SATHIAH STRONGLY HINTED MALAYSIANS WOULD BE SEEKING U.S. ASSISTANCE TO PREVAIL UPON THE RTG TO TAKE THEIR SOUTHERN BORDER SECURITY SITUATION MORE SERIOUSLY, SINCE THIS IS A MATTER OF "CONSIDERABLE CONCERN TO MALAYSIA."

3. COMMENT: MEETING WITH UNDER SECRETARY WOULD BE ESPECIALLY APPROPRIATE IN VIEW OF HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH SENIOR GOM OFFICIALS LAST YEAR AND AWARENESS OF GENERAL MALAYSIAN CONCERNS. IT ALSO WOULD ENABLE US TO EXPLORE GOM THINKING IN THE POST-RAZAK PERIOD AND FOLLOWING RECENT REBUFFS BY LAOS AND SRV AT COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE OVER MALAYSIA'S PET SOUTHEAST ASIAN "ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY" PROJECT. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BENEFIT OUR RELATIONS AND MALAYSIAN UNDERSTANDING OF OUR POSITION IF THE SECRETARY COULD MEET WITH RITHAUDDEEN IN NEW YORK.

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